

Message Text

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ORIGIN NRC-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-07 ACDA-12 PM-05 DOE-11
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-----125551 242314Z /64
O 242217Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 019094

EMBASSY ALSO FOR USEC

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: ENRG, TECH, BE, IT, SZ

SUBJECT: PHYSICAL SECURITY MEASURES AT DESSEL NUCLEAR
FACILITIES

REF: BRUSSELS 0695

1. THE USG IS CURRENTLY REVIEWING TWO EXPORT APPLICATIONS
INVOLVING THE PROPOSED INITIAL SHIPMENT OF PLUTONIUM TO
BELGIAN FACILITIES AND EVENTUAL REEXPORT TO SWITZERLAND
AND ITALY.

2. THE FIRST APPLICATION INCLUDES 51.086 KGS OF PLUTONIUM
MIXED WITH NATURAL URANIUM TO BE FABRICATED INTO MIXED
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OXIDE FUEL ASSEMBLIES BY FRANCO-BELGE DE FABRICATION DE
COMBUSTIBLES S.A. (FBFC) IN DESSEL, BELGIUM. THE COMPLETED
FUEL ASSEMBLIES WILL BE REEXPORTED TO SWITZERLAND FOR
EVENTUAL LOADING INTO THE BEZNAU I POWER REACTOR.

3. THE SECOND APPLICATION IS FOR 2.48 KGS OF PLUTONIUM AND
61 KGS OF NATURAL URANIUM FOR CLEANUP AND ANALYSIS BY

BELGONNUCLEAIRE,S.A.,IN DESSEL AND EVENTUAL REEXPORT TO ITALY.

4. PRIOR TO TAKING FINAL ACTION ON THE PROPOSED EXPORTS, THE USG REQUESTS EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING OFFICIAL GOB ASSURANCES THAT MEASURES FOR THE PHYSICAL PROTECTION OF NUCLEAR MATERIAL AT FBFC AND BELGONNUCLEAIRE WILL PROVIDE A DEGREE OF PROTECTION EQUIVALENT TO THAT CURRENTLY IN PLACE AND BEING INSTALLED AT THE BR-2 REACTOR SITE AT MOL (SEE REFTEL). WE ARE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN CONFIRMATION THAT THE DESSEL MEASURES ARE EQUIVALENT TO THOSE AT MOL WITH RESPECT TO (1) ONSITE SECURITY FORCES, (2) TIMELY OFFSITE RESPONSE FORCES, (3) REDUNDANT COMMUNICATIONS TO OFFSITE RESPONSE FORCES, (4) INTERIOR INTRUSION ALARM SYSTEMS, (5) ACCESS CONTROL MEASURES TO MATERIAL PROCESSING AND STORAGE AREAS, AND (6) PHYSICAL

BARRIERS PROTECTING MATERIAL PROCESSING AND STORAGE AREAS.

5. IN VIEW OF THE URGENCY OF THESE APPLICATIONS, AN EARLY RESPONSE WOULD BE APPRECIATED. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE MATERIAL FOR SWITZERLAND MUST BE READY FOR SHIPMENT FROM US BY FEBRUARY 3 IN ORDER TO ARRIVE IN TIME FOR THE NEXT SCHEDULED LOADING ON THE BEZNAU I POWER REACTOR, OTHERWISE PROPOSED IRRADIATION WILL BE DELAYED BY MINIMUM OF ONE YEAR. VANCE
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Message Attributes

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